

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

**** See "TSN Corner" on the Last Pages ****

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Vacation Time and Winlink 2000

I will be going to visit my daughters, one in Pennsylvania and the other in Connecticut, leaving August 20 and returning September 1. Please send your net reports to Rodney, W5DY, in my absence. He will forward them to me via Email or Winlink 2K. I will be able to send and receive messages using Winlink 2K using the Internet connection to the CMS servers, although any traffic handled via that method will not count (traffic must be sent and received via radio to be counted in the monthly totals sent to your STM).

What that means is that any traffic that cannot be passed on TEX may be sent to me for digital relay, if necessary. They may be sent via E-mail or Winlink 2K.

TEX members who have Winlink 2K capability include Rodney, W5DY, and Ken, K5RG (anyone else? let me know). I will be checking E-mail and Winlink daily. I can even access Winlink 2K via my iPad 2, for which I will have AT&T cellular data service while I'm away. So Internet access should not be a problem. Pretty neat. Wish I could take an HF radio with me (but will only have a VHF/UHF HT).

I will need someone to cover my Tuesday late NCS slot and also my Friday late RN5 assignment. While I do not have other "primary" assignments, I also often cover early Thursday and Saturday TEX NCS open slots as well as late RN5 on those evenings, so please help where you can. Rodney will also be out of town on Saturdays during my absence, although he may be able to cover some of the schedules. It is not right that Rodney and I should have to cover every open slot, so please do pitch in and help when you are able.

My Thursday CAN NCS and Echo and Fox TCC skeds will also need coverage on August 25 (local time). I am hoping to be back in time for them on September 1, but airline delays may prevent that. I will send out requests for coverage for those dates separately.

Short Newsletter Month

In keeping with the every-other-month long newsletter cycle, this issue will only have statistics and TEX Mailbox features.

TEX Mailbox:

As you know, **Gary, K5QOW**, has been in the hospital for several weeks now after having a deer run him down while he was out riding his motorcycle. He is now out of the Intensive Care Unit. Recuperation is slow, and he still cannot talk or manage to use a CW key, but his progress is encouraging. Please continue to keep him in your thoughts and prayers. It is going to take some time before he recovers completely.

Pat, KD5TXD, was brave enough to make some needed repairs to her Elecraft K2, with the help of Charles, her OM. As usual, she has some interesting anecdotes for us. Pat wrote:

We cracked the K2 open. I am a nervous wreck. Even though the K2 is regular components rather than surface mount it still looks tiny. The innards look tinier than I remember. I put this darn thing together and now I can't even see to identify the parts any more. I have grown older and blinder. Charles and I were sitting there with magnifying glasses and flash lights and a stack of manuals.

Charles had all of the manuals out and tweaked and twiddled. Tweekwise I think everything is adjusted. Charles did the original tweeking and he is good at it. The earphone connector is broken and that affects the rig if I am using earphones or not. Charles searched through all of his massive collection of junk and could not find a replacement for the broken part. We called Elecraft and they are sending a replacement for it. That will be a few days, I guess.

After we opened the K2 up that part didn't function at all. Charles didn't want to leave the K2 totally not working so he decided to try supergluing the part back together. Hmmm. This didn't sound like a good plan to me. However, it was superglue or no K2 for the week or two till we receive the part. I will test it today by seeing if I can contact some of the special event stations scheduled to be on the air today. We put the K2 back together and we will see how things go. If y'all don't hear me Wednesday you will know that the superglue didn't hold.

(Note: the Superglue is still holding from the fact that Pat made it to her NCS slots).

On the local radio front we have had some interesting action. Our ham club is not known for doing projects without problems. For some time we have needed to get a functional backup power source for our 146.68 repeater. We determined that there used to be a propane tank and generator at that tower shack that the sheriffs department used for backup power. The tank was gone but the generator was there. The generator could be set up to turn on when there was a power outage. We needed a propane tank. The county put in a requisition for the tank but we would have to prepare a cement pad for it and do the labor to connect the gas line to the generator.

One of our members suggested that we ask the local cement company if we could have the left over cement from one of their delivery runs. Sure, they were thrilled to dump their left over cement any place we wanted. We prepared the wood framing and secured suitable rebar. We let the cement company know that we had everything ready and sat back waiting for the call. So, in the middle of the day one weekday they called. Now our club consists of a bunch of really old folks who cant do much more than watch and talk. The other part of our club is younger folks who are working their tails off trying to keep their jobs. Then there are folks like

Charles and myself, just a little better at talking and watching and somewhat free to come and go at will. We managed to gather the needed folks to smooth the concrete. It turned out really well for a bunch of amateurs.

The next step was to mount the tank to the slab. There were a couple months of debate as to the issue of putting the bolts into the wet cement or waiting until the cement was dry and drilling the holes for the bolts. After lengthy parliamentary debate in several club meetings it was decided to drill the holes after the cement dried. Two of our members were familiar with the process. Funny how those two ended up out of town on vacation when the time came to put the bolts in and mount the tank. I refused to watch that effort but they were successful in mounting the propane tank.

Now we had to run the gas line from the tank to the generator. I didn't want to watch that, either. The fellows needed to bury the gas line so they used sharpshooter shovels to dig the trench from the tank to the generator. Suddenly our most knowledgeable member started hollering to stop. There were two phone cables that went perpendicular to our trench. The county Emergency Manager had called the phone company and was told there were no phone cables between our tank and the generator. Hmmm -- he was told wrong. We had severed the phones to the county park service on a Saturday morning. The fellows reported the problem to the EM and put down their tools for the day.

So, this morning Charles is off to the tower shack with our most knowledgeable club member to try to finish the connection. Charles took my gardening hand tools to finish the tender job of making the trench and not cutting the newly reconnected phone cables. If they are successful it will be the completion of a year long project to get backup power to our repeater. I will see if I can contact any special event stations today with my superglued K2.

The other project, which I don't think will ever be completed, our tilt down crank up tower, still rests on the ground. Charles goes back to teaching classes in a couple weeks so I don't think any action will be taken on the tower this year.

Pat also sent along the following with her TSN Corner (see last pages for that). Things have perked up a bit. I am not sure if that was due to better band conditions. I really appreciate the TEX folks who drop by with some traffic for TSN. It gives us something more than just our training lessons to work with. Your visits also make us feel like we are part of the action. Thanks!!

As I am sure everyone knows South Texas braced for Tropical Storm Don. Don was a big let down. For a while Don was aiming directly at my back yard before turning south and dissipating. We put up the hurricane shutters as they were expecting 60 mph winds in the land fall area and that literally was my back yard for a time. The proceeds of all that work was a whopping 0.16 inches of rain. Well, I better not complain as right now anything is better than nothing. The mesquite trees actually seemed to issue an audible sigh of relief the morning after that 0.16. It has been so dry this year even the weeds and cactus refuse to grow. It has been so dry the fire ants have gone into hibernation. It has been so dry that Charles antenna tower hole has dried out totally. Man, thats really dry.

73!! Pat KD5TXD

Benny, K5KV, passed along some info about getting the news in Morse. Thank you, Benny, really neat.

Folks,

This is a neat program. I have had a ball tonight listening to the daily news via CW tones and also via a combination of CW tones and sounder clicks at the same time. I installed this thing and away it went, sending CW from a RSS news feed from Yahoo. After a while, it had several choices in the window, and it must have found my Twitter account because it shows Twitter as a choice. Heck, I can't even remember how to log into that because I set it up to catch up on the YI9PSE DXpedition last year and never used it since.

It is a hoot to listen to real news sent at 25 WPM just like WCC used to run press when I was in high school. I hope you enjoy it. Click the link just below my signature.

73,
Benny K5KV

<http://morse-rss-news.sourceforge.net/>

[Morse News](#)

Morse News (formerly RSS Morse) periodically reads one or more RSS (news) and/or Twitter feeds and translates the received messages into precisely timed International or American (railroad) Morse code. The Morse code can be played as CW radio tones, old-fashioned CW spark-gap sounds, telegraph sounder click/clack sounds, or to a physical telegraph sounder connected to a serial port. Split speeds are supported for Farnsworth effects. American code generation includes timing nuances that make it sound natural.

[Morse Keyer](#)

Morse Keyer is a software keyer that can be keyed via the mouse or a key/paddle connected to a serial port. It supports straight keying, semi-automatic (bug) keying, and Iambic A or B mode automatic keying. The Morse code can be played as CW radio tones or telegraph sounder click/clack sounds. Optionally, the keyer can key an external telegraph sounder or loop, or a ham rig (while still playing the sound). Since it supports semi-auto keying, it can be used to send American morse code (a single-lever paddle is best for this).

Download the package for Microsoft Windows (Only):

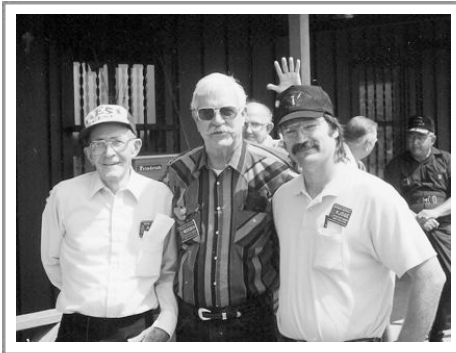
<http://sourceforge.net/projects/morse-rss-news/files/Morse%20Code%20Tools%202.0/MorseTools20Setup.exe/download>

Charlie, W5GKH, sent along some pictures that he found in his files. I'm sure some of you old time TEX'ans will enjoy them. Thanks, Charlie.



This first picture was taken in 1994 at Lake Whitney. The rock that is the Whitney Nugget was picked up by Jane Eastman (can't remember her call right now) at Lake Whitney Park at one of the 7290 Net early picnics. It was signed with the call of all the members there and given to Lee Ulrey K5HZR as an award for his service to the net and ham radio. From then on, it was awarded every year to a member as a service award. Jo Ann KA5AZK has the history the net. I gave all of my photo albums of the picnics to Jo Ann, so I no longer have them as a reference to jog my memory.

In this picture are shown, Kneeling L to R, W5VMP Art, W5GKH Charlie, KS5V Ed, and N5KCL Tom. Standing L to R, K5UPN Joe, W5OJP Tom, W5CTZ Harry, W5GMX Gene, KA5OWN Unknown, AE5I Gene, and AC5Z Bert.



The picture at the left shows the Texas STMs from 1994 -- Gene Smith AE5I - West Texas, Charlie Ogilvie WD5GKH - South Texas and Bernard Aberholt KJ5GE - North Texas. The one on the right shows the 1995 TEX net members at the picnic including front: Harry Pfeiffer, W5CTZ; Ed LaRose, KS5V; Can't remember but had an 8th region extra class call; Gene, W5CMX.

Back: Charlie Ogilvie, WD5GKH; Bob Adler, N5NY; Tom Comstock, N5TC.



Back: Charlie Ogilvie, WD5GKH; Bob Adler, N5NY; Tom Comstock, N5TC.

Scott, N7NET, found what has to be a unique method for sending code. Take a look. Scott writes:

I came across this method today. It's different.

<http://sites.google.com/site/oh6dccw/suspenders-cw-key>

72/73 de Scott/n7net/QRP

Rodney, W5DY, is quite a good golfer. He will be in a tournament next weekend (20th and 21st). He says that golf is much more fun than almost anything else. He has been playing golf since he was 8 years old and is still pretty good at it for being an old fellow. He first shot his age when he was 69. At 71 he has shot his age 7 times so far this year. Impressive !!!

TEX Net Topics

The early TEX move to 7053 KHz continues to work acceptably although evidence of longer skip has been showing up recently. NCS stations are again reminded that they can move the net to 3541 if for some reason 40 meters is not working well.

We still need help with **11** open NCS/liaison slots, including **2** open *primary* NCS slots and **4** open *primary* RN5 slots on Thursday and Saturday (all shown in **red**). Please consider taking one of these, or even just an open backup position. Thursday and Saturday RN5 liaisons are sorely needed.

Thanks to Jay, N5PWG, Sam, W5CU, and Rodney, W5DY, we managed to get through the month missing only one RN5 liaison spot.

I did not receive any feedback about designating Saturday night as an “off” night for TEX. Either nobody reads this section of the newsletter or nobody cares. I will wait one more month before formally eliminating Saturday nights from TEX unless a good reason is provided to keep it.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	N5PWG	KD5TXD	Open	N5PWG	Open	W5GKH
Backup	Open	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	N5PWG	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	Open	W5CU
RN5 #1	W5GKH	N5PWG	W5CU	Open	N5PWG	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	Open	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	N5PWG	W5CU	Open	K6JT	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	K6JT	W5DY	N5PWG	K6JT	W5GKH

TEX/1: **7053/3541** at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541/7108** at 22:00 local

RN5/1: **7108/3567** at 19:30; RN5/2: **3567** at 21:30 local

TSN: **3552** - 19:45 local; CAN: **7052/3552/7108** - 20:30 local; PAN: **7052/3552**- 22:30 local

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, N5PWG, K5RG

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, N5PWG, K5RG, W5TMO, KD5TXD

Statistics:

Traffic was up a little compared to last month, but check-ins were down. Rodney, W5DY, with 35 (56%) took first honors, edging out Randy, N5RL, with 34 (55%). Mike, W5TMO, came in 3rd with 22 (35%). Thanks to all who checked in for your support.

We had visitors including Frank, W4DLZ, the RN5 manager (Florida), Louis, KD5GM, in Deer Park, and Bob, AA5IJ, in Pasadena.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.5 per net session (2.4 last month). Net time averaged 13.5 minutes per session (compared to 13.7 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.9 per session (5.3 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (July 2011)

Call	Name	QNI	Total QNI	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
N5AF	Sam	1	1					
	Cleveland	0						
W5CU	Sam	10	17		6			
*		7			4			
W4DLZ	Frank	0	1					
	Florida	1						
W5DY	Rodney	17	35	5	7	1		
		18		6	5			
N5EL	Floyd	18	18					
*		0						
W5ESE	Scott	19	19					1
*		0						
W5GKH	Charlie	8	16	8	6			
*		8		8	6			
K5GM	Pete	7	8		1			
*		1						
KD5GM	Louis	0	1					
*	Deer Park	1						
W9GVW	Eric	1	1					
*		0						
AA5IJ	Bob	1	1					
	Pasadena	0						
K5JRN	Si	0	2					
*		2						
K6JT	Steve	26	57	5	1		26	
*		31		4	12		31	
W6LFB	Jim	0	1					
*		1						
WA5MS	Marty	11	11					
*		0						
N5NVP	Jim	1	15					
		14						
N5PWG	Jay	11	21	9	9			
*		10		4	4			
K5QOW	Gary	4	4			3		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	5	14					
*		9						
N5RL	Randy	22	34					
*		12						
W5TMO	Mike	0	22					
*		22		9				
KD5TXD	Pat	4	4	4				4
*		0						
Totals		303		62	61	4	57	5
				100%	98%	6%	92%	8%
QTC 1		62	156					
QTC 2		94			Sessions:	62		

Time 1		431	834				
Time 2		403					

The roster has been updated to add Ed, K5CZ, in Temple, who has started checking in on the early session in August. Right now Ed has only 40 meter capabilities but intends to remedy that when the weather cools down some.

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5BA	Brian	Houston	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City OK
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
K5CZ	Ed	Temple	* N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	N0SSS	Adam	Oklunion
AA5J	Lee	Arkansas	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
K5JRN	Si	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
* K5KV	Benny	Star	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	* NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)
N7NET	Scott	McKinney			

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

Please help fill in NCS and liaison slots in my and Rodney's absence. We do appreciate all of you who support the net and hope to keep it going as a viable multi-section part of the national traffic system. That depends on all of us helping out when it is needed.

Until next month,

73, Steve

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)



TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3552.0 KHz +/- QRM
http://www.atcweb.com/tsn/Texas_Slow_Net.htm
 Pat Allison KD5TXD (pja@atcweb.com)
 TSN Net Manager

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT

Greetings from the Wild Horse Desert – home of your TSN Manager

Thank you to everyone who checked in to TSN this month. You brought our QNI back up to a normal level. Also, thanks to the TEX folks who brought us some extra traffic for the month. Remember, Arley and Pat are always on TSN. Thanks again to Carl, AA5JW, for his very regular checkins. Visit TSN any time. We run a bit slow, but everyone is welcome to join us.

On the local side South Texas braced for a tropical storm, but Don let us down. For a while Don was aiming directly at my back yard. We put up the hurricane shutters and prayed for rain. We were disappointed with only .16 inch of rain. I don't mind missing the wind. Keep a weather eye out, as always. Anyone having extra rain, please send it to South Texas.

July 2011 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	TX	N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
W5AS	Club Call			N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr	TX
K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
ND0CW	David	Newburg	ND	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	AA5NZ	Web	Goldthwait	TX
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	KE5PYF	David	Fort Worth	TX
K5FAL	Curt	Edmond	OK	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells	TX
K5GM	Pete	Austin	TX	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park	TX	N0SSS	Adam	Oklahoma City	TX
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglasville	TX
AK4GY	Russ	Lewisberg	TN	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
WR9H	Herbert	Rockford	IL	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
KE5HCM	Patti	Kerville	TX	WB5UPS	Ron	Port Neches	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	N5UZ	Rick	Cedar Park	TX
K6JT, W0CXX	Steve	Plano	TX	KD5VGJ	Jay	Flower Mound	TX
N0JL	Jim	Chilliecothe	IA	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	W4VLL	Victor	Pembroke	VA
K9JWV	Jim	St. George	UT	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
KT4KL	Alton	Bandera	TX	WB8W	Bob	Cincinnati	OH
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	WB5WKQ	Jeff	Dryden	MI
KB5KWO	Steve	Norman	OK	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
W8LKI	Wolfe	Defiance	OH	NK5Z	Tom	Conroe	TX
KCOM	Larry	Branson	MO				

This is a great place to learn how to handle traffic on CW. If you are a voice net traffic handler this is a great addition to your amateur radio skill set. See you on the air!!

TSN Activity Report for July, 2011

Total Sessions 31, Total Check-ins 131, Total Traffic 32 by 13 different operators.

July 2011 QNS

July	Callsign	Name	QTH	STATE
31	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
31	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
19	AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX
11	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglasville	TX
11	W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX
8	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
7	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
6	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
3	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX
1	K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO
1	N5AF	Sa,	Cleveland	TX
1	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
1	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

August 5, 2011